
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order No. 48 (2012)

Continuing the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council

Importance of the Issue

Section 2.2-221.1 of the *Code of Virginia* directs the Secretary of Public Safety to “establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of offender transitional and reentry services among state, local, and non-profit agencies in order to prepare offenders for successful transition into their communities upon release from incarceration.” This code section also requires the Secretary to ensure that a system is in place for “improving opportunities for treatment, employment, and housing while individuals are on subsequent probation, parole, or post-release supervision.”

Each year, approximately over 13,000 adult and 500 juvenile offenders are projected to be released from incarceration. The Commonwealth of Virginia seeks to improve public safety by fostering a successful transition of these offenders into their communities; and by reducing the rates at which they return to prison. In order to reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and reduce the number of crime victims, consistent with Virginia Code § 53.1-32.2, we must ensure that offenders released from incarceration have been adequately prepared to return to their communities. This preparation includes equipping offenders to find employment; providing educational opportunities; ensuring treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues; and assisting offenders re-integrate into a stable home environment. Successful integration of offenders requires collaboration, coordination, and partnership among state and local agencies, community supervision agencies, service providers, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, courts, communities, and family members.

In 2010, I issued Executive Order 11, thereby establishing the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council. The Council's primary role was to develop collaborative re-entry strategies and to tie together re-entry initiative across state agencies, local agencies and community organizations. Through its work, the Council helped establish four year re-entry strategies for the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. It issued over

60 recommendations to strengthen public safety, reduce recidivism, and improve collaboration among local and state agencies working on this important initiative. As a result of this important work of the Council, localities, state agencies, faith-based and community organizations, and other important stakeholders continue to aggressively move forward in their efforts to assist adult and juvenile offenders return to their communities better prepared to handle many of the challenges and barriers they face upon return from incarceration. Virginia has set forth an aggressive agenda on this initiative and continues to strive to be model for other states.

Accordingly, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor, under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Section 2.2-134 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject always to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby reconstitute the Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Council. The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-entry Council (the Council) shall be chaired by the Secretary of Public Safety or her designee and comprised of the following Executive Branch representatives or their designees:

- Secretary of Commerce and Trade
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Secretary of Transportation
- Senior Economic Advisor to the Governor
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Medical Assistance Services
- Department of Planning and Budget
- Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
- Department of Rehabilitative Services
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Veterans Services
- Virginia Employment Commission
- Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
- Virginia Parole Board

The Governor may appoint additional members as he deems appropriate. The Secretary of Public Safety shall invite additional participation by the Attorney General of Virginia, General Assembly, Supreme Court, Virginia Sheriffs Association, Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, faith-based organizations, and Community Advocacy Groups. All Executive Branch agencies of the Commonwealth shall participate in activities of the Council upon request. Support staff will be provided by the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Office of the Secretary of Education, and other agencies as the Secretary of Public Safety may designate.

The Council shall have the following functions:

- Receive and review reports from appropriate agencies and partners relevant to ongoing Council recommendations.

- Upon identification, develop, implement and enhance procedures to overcome barriers to implementations of recommendations.
- Encourage ongoing collaboration and partnership among local agencies, community-based social services providers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, as well as other stakeholders, in promoting and enhancing successful re-entry policies and programs to successfully promote and support the Council's recommendations. Submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and re-entry services to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than November 15 of each year.
- Meet at the call of the Secretary of Public Safety or her designee and as provided in procedures adopted by the Council.

Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from federal funds, private contributions, and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Advisory Board, as authorized by Section 2.2-135 of the Code of Virginia , as well as any other private sources of funding that may be identified. Estimated direct costs for this Commission are \$1,000.00 per year and estimated staff time is 100 hours.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

This Executive Order rescinds and supersedes Executive Order 11 (2010) issued on May 11, 2010. This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until one year from its signing, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 29 th day of June, 2012.

/s/ Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

/s/ Secretary of the Commonwealth